

## Hanoi Shipments Have Tripled

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Mr. Allen

WASHINGTON—Russia is losing no time in making good its threat to appreciably increase military aid to North Vietnam. Since Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev first hurled this warning in February, Soviet arms shipments to Hanoi have tripled.

More than 175 Iron Curtain vessels, carrying hundreds of ground-to-ground rockets with ranges from six to 30 miles, have unloaded at North Vietnam ports.

The 30-mile rockets, not yet operational, are for coastal defense.

Naval Intelligence authorities report that 96 of the Red ships docked during April, setting a new record for arrivals in a single month.

Previous high was 36 in December 1966.

In that month Russia began delivering the most effective weapon North Vietnam now has against U.S. troops and their bases—the 140mm rocket with launcher. This weapon and the still longer ranged 200mm rocket have shown up on other fronts in recent weeks.

Both type rockets are lightweight and cheap to produce. In the three months they have been used in Vietnam, these weapons are estimated to have caused 1,000 U.S. casualties in killed and wounded, destroyed 14 planes and damaged some 30 others.

The introduction of these powerful arms is confronting U.S. commanders with new far-reaching problems.

The 200mm rocket can outshoot the U.S. 175mm "Big Tom" field guns. As a consequence, American forces have been compelled to erect strong defenses capable of withstanding rocket bombardments. Similarly, the 140mm rocket has compelled the Navy to do most of its patrolling and coastal bombardment at night.

There will be House hearings on President Johnson's long-languishing East-West trade proposals—but that's about all.

Representative Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, who has blocked action on this widely controversial plan for more than a year, has finally agreed to hold hearings. But at the same time, he has made it completely clear to both the White House and State Department that he is still opposed to action on the

measure both by his committee and Congress.

"I have not changed my mind one iota," Mills told Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach. "As long as the Soviet bloc is sending arms to Vietnam, I am flatly against increasing trade with these Communist countries. My willingness to hold hearings does not mean for one moment that the Ways and Means Committee will act on this trade proposal this year."

When Katzenbach sought to pin Mills down on a date for the hearings, the latter told him that would be decided after the committee acts on pending Social Security legislation.

Numerous articles are appearing in Russian publications all stating there will be sensational revelations in July regarding the assassination of President Kennedy.

The articles give no further details. Also, there is no indication of the identity of the writers, and what is behind this mysterious rash of claims.

The Secret Service is taking new measures to safeguard President Johnson.

All White House windows above the first floor have been replaced with bullet-proof glass.

To avoid attracting attention to this change, the windows were replaced one at a time. The windows on the first floor were bullet-proofed some time ago.

North Vietnam has assumed direct command of all Viet Cong forces in the upper two-thirds of South Vietnam. Only in the southern one-third of South Vietnam does the Viet Cong high command retain control of its own troops. The Viet Cong headquarters is believed to be in the jungle stronghold of Zone C near Cambodia. . . . The North Vietnam headquarters is located at Thanh Hoa, 200 miles north of the 17th Parallel. It is ringed with more than 100 SAM ground-to-air missiles. . . . Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Thanh is listed as commander of all Communist forces in this region. He is a member of the North Vietnam National Defense Council and Communist Party Politburo. . . . The U.S. Information Agency now has a staff of 109 in Saigon. During the current fiscal year, U.S.A. gave \$5.721 in foreign currencies to finance trips of foreign newsmen to South Vietnam.